

SWAVESEY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

For the Year 1904,

BY

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SWAVESEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT.

I beg leave to communicate to the Swavesey Rural District Council my Annual Report for the year 1904 on "the conditions affecting health in the District and . . . the means for improving those conditions," and in addressing myself to this task I have to point out to the Council that by the "Memorandum as to Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health," issued by the Local Government Board, October 1904, I am directed to discuss prescribed subjects in definite order, and give information which may seem superfluous to the Council. The following extract from the Memorandum will make clear the intention of the Local Government Board :—

"As subjects concerning which the Board desire to obtain through Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, not only definite general information, but record also of particular changes of condition that may have occurred incidentally or by action of the local authority, the following deserve to be especially borne in mind :—

"Physical features and general character of the District.

"House accommodation, especially for the working classes ; its adequacy and fitness for habitation. Sufficiency of open space about houses, and cleanliness of surroundings. Supervision over erection of new houses.

"Sewerage and Drainage : its sufficiency in all parts of the District. Condition of sewers and house drains. Method or methods of disposal of sewage. Localities where improvements are needed.

“ Excrement disposal : system in vogue ; defects, if any.

“ Removal and disposal of house refuse—whether by public scavenger or occupiers : frequency and method.

“ Water supply of the District or its several parts : its source (from public service or otherwise), nature (river water, well water, upland water, etc.), sufficiency, wholesomeness, and freedom (by special treatment or otherwise) from risks of pollution.

“ Places over which the Council have supervision, *e. g.*, lodging houses, slaughterhouses, bakehouses, dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, factories and workshops, and offensive trades.

“ Nuisances : proceedings for their abatement—any remaining unabated.

“ Methods of dealing with infectious diseases : notification; isolation hospital accommodation and its sufficiency ; disinfection.

“ With regard to such points it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the Board and of the County Council as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances and a history of local sanitary questions, which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies.”

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics.
Population.

Inasmuch as a decrease in the population is governed by emigration rather than by the relation of birth-rate and death-rate as is the natural increase there is no certain factor by which the population can be estimated, and as there is no reason to suppose there is sufficient material alteration to vitiate the substantial accuracy of statistical calculations based upon the results of the enumeration of the population at the Census of 1901, I use these figures as the basis of calculations of vital statistics which are as follows :—

The total number of deaths registered is 32. To this number must be added 2 which occurred in the Union Workhouse, and 1 in Fulbourn Asylum, of persons belonging to the district. The corrected number is 35 (17 males and 18 females),

equal to a death-rate from all diseases of 14·1 per thousand living per annum, and is the lowest rate recorded since the year 1895, with the exception of that for the year 1897. The mean rate for the previous nine years is 15·9. The death rate in England and Wales for the year 1904 is given as 16·2 in the Summary of the Registrar General contained in the Appendix to his Report for the last quarter of the year.

No Deaths in the groups of epidemic diseases have occurred during the year.

Influenza caused no death.

The total number of births registered is 48, (25 males and 23 females), equal to a birth-rate of 19·4 per thousand living per annum. The mean rate for the previous nine years is 20·1. The birth-rate in England and Wales for the year 1904 is given as 27·9, which is 0·5 per 1000 below the rate in 1903, and lower than the rate in any other year on record.

Deaths and
Death Rate

Infantile mortality as represented by the ratio of deaths of children under one year of age to 1000 registered births, is 41, and is the lowest rate recorded in any year since 1895, with the exception of 1902, when the rate was 16. The mean rate for the previous nine years is 96 per 1000.

Infantile
Mortality

The total deaths and annual death-rate for this Registration sub-district, after distribution of deaths in public institutions are as follows :—

SUB-DISTRICT.	Registered Births.	Share of Work-house.	Adden brooke's Hospital.	Cambs. Asylum.	Corrected Totals.	Death Rate.
Swavesey	32	2	...	1	35	14·1

It will be observed that the birth-rate per 1000, although 4·0 higher than the rate in 1903, is still 0·7 below the average of the past nine years.

The death-rate is the lowest rate recorded in the district since the year 1897, when the rate was 10·9.

Diarrhœa. No deaths from Diarrhœa have been registered during the year.

Phthisis. The number of deaths from Phthisis among persons belonging to the district is 4 ; the death-rate from this disease is 1·62 per thousand.

Cancer. The number of deaths due to Cancer among persons belonging to the district is 2 ; the death-rate from this disease is 0·81 per thousand.

The following Table shows the deaths and death-rate from Diarrhœa, Phthisis, and Cancer respectively among persons belonging to the district during the nine years 1895-1903.

	DIARRHŒA.		PHTHISIS.		CANCER.	
	Deaths.	Death-rate.	Deaths.	Death-rate.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
1895.	3	1·09	3	1·09	1	0·36
1896.	1	0·37	1	0·37	6	2·22
1897.	0	0·00	5	1·88	2	0·75
1898.	0	0·00	6	2·29	6	2·29
1899.	0	0·00	3	1·17	6	2·34
1900.	0	0·00	4	1·59	3	1·19
1901.	0	0·00	4	1·62	1	0·40
1902.	0	0·00	3	1·21	3	1·21
1903.	0	0·00	3	1·21	6	2·43
Average for years 1895-1903.	0·4	0·17	3·5	1·35	3·8	1·47

The number of deaths due to diseases of the respiratory organs is slightly higher than that of previous year.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Disease of an infectious character has been more prevalent than during the previous year. The number of cases notified during the year is 8, (none fatal) equal to a case rate per thousand of the population of 3·24. The number of cases notified each year during the previous nine years is as follows:—10 in 1895, 18 in 1896, 8 in 1897, 4 in 1898, 10 in 1899, 11 in 1900, 11 in 1901, 8 in 1902, 5 in 1903—total 85. The mean case rate is 3·68.

Disease
Incidence

No case of Small Pox has been notified in the district during the year, nor in any year since the district was constituted (1895.)

Small Pox

Six cases of Scarlet Fever (none fatal) have been notified during the year, equal to a case rate per thousand of the population of 2·43.

Scarlet Fever.

All the cases occurred in three households in the village of Boxworth between October 13th and November 11th. Enquiry into the first cases failed to elicit any satisfactory source of infection, and the others were possibly due to social intercourse. As a method of precaution the schools were closed, and thoroughly disinfected by means of the Formalin Spraying machine.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified; and the number of deaths registered in the District during each of the nine years, 1895—1903, are set out in the following tables:—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Total.
Cases.	5	15	2	...	5	6	...	5	2	40
Deaths.	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3

Mean case rate 1·70, mean mortality rate 0·11.

Nine years deaths per cent. of cases 7·5.

One solitary case of Diphtheria has been notified during the year, and that occurred at Lolworth on January 19th, there appeared to be no circumstance to account for the illness. The case rate per thousand is 0·40.

Diphtheria.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified, and the number of deaths registered in the district during each of the nine years, 1895-1903 are set out in the following table :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Total.
Cases.	1	1	2	4	1	1	10
Deaths.	1	1	1	2	...	...	5

Mean case rate 0·42, mean mortality rate 0·19.

Nine years' deaths per cent. of cases 50·0.

Typhoid Fever.

No case of Typhoid Fever has been notified during the year.

The number of cases of Typhoid Fever notified, and the number of deaths registered in the district during each of the nine years, 1895-1903 are set out in the following table :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Total.
Cases.	1	2	2	1	6
Deaths.

Mean case rate, 0·27, mean mortality rate, 0·00.

Puerperal Fever.

No case of Puerperal Fever, Continued Fever, Cholera, Relapsing Fever or Plague has been notified during the year, or during any of the previous nine years.

Erysipelas.

One case of Erysipelas has been notified during the year, equal to a case rate per thousand of 0·40.

The number of cases of Erysipelas notified, and the number of deaths registered during each of the nine years 1895—1903, are set out in the following table :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Total.
Cases.	5	3	6	3	4	2	5	...	1	29
Deaths.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1

Mean case rate 1·24, mean mortality rate 0·03.

Nine years' deaths per cent. of cases 3·4.

Other epidemic but non-notified diseases have not been present during the year.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Rural District of Swavesey comprises six villages, which vary in altitude above ordnance datum from 18 feet at Swavesey to 124 feet at Lolworth. Several of the villages rest on the Old River Gravels overlying Oxford and Kimeridge Clay, notably Swavesey, from which the water supply of the village is obtained ; this village is liable to floods owing to the backing up of the waters of the Ouse. Physical
Features

The manufacture of milk cheeses, and the exportation of milk is an important industry in the district ; but the larger number of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The house accommodation in the district, especially for the working classes, is generally adequate and is chiefly of the old-fashioned thatched type, but not therefore on that account insalubrious, for the thatched cottage if in good repair and with cleanly surroundings, is generally more comfortable and healthy a dwelling than its brick and slate substitute. The sufficiency of open space about houses, except in a few instances, is adequate, and the cleanliness of the surroundings varies according to the character of the inhabitants. In some of the villages a few of the houses are, however, badly and unhealthy situated. House
Accommodation

Three cases of overcrowding at Connington have been reported during the year ; one case has been abated by the removal of the family to a larger dwelling ; and the other two cases have been abated by removal of some members of the respective families.

There is no official supervision over the erection of new houses, but in every instance a water certificate, under the provisions of Sec. 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, is required before occupancy.

It is worth the consideration of the Council, whether they should take advantage of the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1900 and 1903, which amend the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, for the better housing of the rural populations.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Sewerage and
Drainage.

There is no system of Sewerage in the district, but at Swavesey the surface drains are sewerized and discharge into an open ditch which crosses the main street, and thence to the river; the sewage passes away fairly quickly through the village, but stagnates near Church End, and occasionally becomes very offensive.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Excrement
Disposal.

Excrement disposal is chiefly by privy pits, and in a few instances by trough or pail closets; the pit privies are being gradually abolished in favour of the above-mentioned type. The fæcal matter is disposed of on garden ground.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Removal of
Refuse.

The house refuse is disposed of by the occupiers, temporarily in ashpits, and subsequently on adjacent garden ground or allotments. It might be worth while for the Council to consider whether systematic scavengering might not be instituted in the larger villages in the district.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water Supply.

The villages in the district obtain their supply chiefly from shallow wells and ponds. At Church End, Swavesey, the supply is mainly from private wells, but Middle Watch and Boxworth End are supplied by public pumps on the roadside; the well reservoirs connected therewith are supplied from a large gravel patch at Black Horse Lane by earthenware

socketted pipes through which the water flows by gravitation. The water supply at Boxworth End frequently fails from subsidence of the water level in the gravel in time of drought. It is worth while for the Council to consider whether some means of distribution can be adopted to prevent this recurring failure.

One Parish pump at Swavesey has been repaired during the year.

Parish ponds at Over and Swavesey respectively, have been cleaned out during the year.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

No systematic inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, has been attempted under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, although Regulations under this Order have been in force in the District since 1st January, 1900. Considering the importance of the dairy industry in the district, I think it desirable to again express the opinion that a more complete system of inspection of these places should be carried out in view of the large extent of the milk industry.

Inspection.

Slaughterhouses are periodically inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factories and Workshops Acts, 1901, has imposed several new and important powers and duties on the District Council.

Factories and
Workshops.

FACTORIES.—There are no non-textile factories in the district where more than forty persons are employed.

WORKSHOPS.—The number of workshops at present recorded is 20, including 9 Bakehouses, 5 Blacksmiths, 3 Builders, 2 Painters, and 1 Tailor.

The workshops are inspected from time to time.

Bakehouses :—The nine bakehouses mentioned above have been inspected during the year, and the special regulations contained in the Act have been enforced. There is no underground bakehouse in the district.

Register of workshops :—A register of workshops in the district has been compiled.

NUISANCES.

Nuisances.

Nuisances of various kinds as indicated in the Inspector's Table in the appendix to this report, have been dealt with.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases are by notification, followed with enquiry by the Medical Officer of Health, Inspector of Nuisances, or by both, according to the importance of the cases.

Isolation
Hospitals, etc.

There is no isolation hospital ; advice is therefore given to householders to carry out isolation of cases in their own homes as far as practicable. The School Authorities are informed of the households in which Infectious Diseases have appeared, with a request to exclude all the members until they are free from infection ; but where epidemic influence shows a tendency to spread, the schools are asked to be closed. In this regard in consequence of the presence of Scarlet Fever at Boxworth, the school was closed for several weeks, and thoroughly disinfected.

In threatened outbreaks of Diphtheria prophylactic doses of Antitoxin are recommended for the protection of all persons known to have been exposed to the chances of infection, and bacterial examination of rubbings from the throats and nasal passages of all known "Contacts" is recommended for the discovery of any unsuspected case of the disease.

At the conclusion of a case, the infected rooms and the articles contained therein are disinfected by aerial disinfectants, but there is no machinery in the district for disinfection by heat or steam.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, and the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, have not yet been adopted. Adoptive Acts,

All the above remarks, together with the Tables of Statistics required by the Local Government Board, and the Inspector's Record of Work, I respectfully submit for the consideration of the Rural District Council.

BUSHELL ANNINGSOON.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Swavesey Rural District Council.

OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 1904.

Complaints received during the year	...	...	...	15
Houses, Premises, &c., Inspected	...	...	...	45
Re-Inspection of Houses, Premises, &c.	...	...	...	20
Cases of Overcrowding reported and abated	...	...	...	3
Dilapidated houses reported	...	...	...	0
Dwellings Disinfected after illness of an infectious character				5
House Drains repaired, cleansed, trapped, &c.	...	...	...	1
Privies, &c., cleaned and repaired	...	...	..	6
Cesspools cleaned out	...	...	...	0
Offensive Ditches cleaned	...	...	...	1
Unwholesome Waters, &c.	...	...	..	0
Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other refuse removed	...	...	...	1
Swine Nuisances abated	...	...	...	1
Parish Pumps repaired	...	...	...	1
Parish ponds cleaned out	...	...	...	2

(Signed),

J. ARCHER,

Inspector.

TABLE I.

For the SWAVESEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Table showing Vital Statistics for the year 1904 and the antecedent nine years.

YEAR.	Population—Estimated to the middle of the year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		AT ALL AGES.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895.. ...	2747	66	24'0	12	182	42	15'2	...	...	2	44	16'0
1896.. ...	2700	55	20'3	4	73	33	12'2	...	...	7	40	14'8
1897... ..	2654	47	17'7	4	85	26	9'8	...	...	3	29	10'9
1898... ..	2611	55	21'0	7	127	44	16'9	...	...	2	46	17'6
1899... ..	2651	55	21'4	6	109	42	16'4	...	...	4	46	17'9
1900... ..	2504	46	18'3	7	152	39	15'5	...	...	5	44	17'5
1901... ..	2468	43	17'4	4	93	32	12'9	...	...	7	39	15'8
1902... ..	2468	61	24'7	1	16	34	13'7	...	...	3	37	15'0
1903... ..	2468	38	15'4	5	131	41	16'6	...	...	3	44	17'8
Averages for years 1895—1903...	2576	52	20'1	5	96	37	14'3	...	...	4	41	15'9
1904.....	2468	48	19'4	2	41	32	12'9	...	...	3	35	14'1

* Rates calculated at per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity and dying in Public Institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity and have died in Public Institutions elsewhere.

The Public Institutions taken into account for the purpose of this and the following tables are the Union Workhouse, Hemingford Grey, and the County Asylum, Fulbourn.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).....14,397.

Total population at all ages.....2468

Number of inhabited houses.....643

Average number of persons per house.....3'8

At Census
of 1901.

TABLE II is omitted by the direction of the Local Government Board as needless for small and undivided Districts.

TABLE III.

SWAVESEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Diphtheria ...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	I	...	...	...	...	I	...
Scarlet Fever ...	6	...	2	4	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	8	...	2	5	...	I	...

NOTE.—There is no Hospital for the isolation of cases of infectious disease.

TABLE IV.
SWAVESEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death at several age periods during the year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the district
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upward	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fevers { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Epidemic Influenza .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea (<i>See notes on next page</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (<i>See notes on next page</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	4	1	...	1	...	2	...	...
Other tubercular diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Pneumonia	3	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of Parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	5	...	...	...	...	3	2	...
Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Not certified... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	18	1	1	1	1	2	12	...
All causes	35	2	2	2	1	9	19	...

See Notes on next page.

NOTES.

- (a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8).
- (b) See notes on Tables I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-Residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" taken into account for the purposes of these Tables.
- (c) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature ; and also deaths certified as from—
Epidemic enteritis ;
Zymotic enteritis ;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa.
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa.
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis. Muco-enteritis, and Gastric Catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health has reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa." Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease are included under the latter.

Under the heads of "Puerperal Fever" and "Cancer" are included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

